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# Farm Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs Radio-TV Division Washington D.C. 20250 (202) 447-4330

Letter No. 2494

Feb. 8, 1991

**1992 BUDGET PROPOSED** -- The Bush Administration is requesting a total farm budget of \$55.7 billion, nearly a 1 percent increase over the 1991 budget of \$55.4 billion. Federal subsidies to wealthier farmers would be reduced, crop insurance premiums raised & food programs for needy families would be sharply expanded under the budget plan sent to Congress this week. There would be some additions here, some snipping there, but no great remodeling, says **Stephen B. Dewhurst**, USDA's budget director. Less than \$100 million of the proposed 1992 budget for USDA would depend on Congress enacting new legislation, he said. **Contact: Stephen Dewhurst (202) 447-3323.**

**BUDGET BOOK** -- Copies of the "1992 Budget Summary" are available from USDA. **Contact: Marci Hilt (202) 447-6445. Media only, please.**

**STAMP DESIGN CONTEST** -- As part of this year's celebration of the 100th anniversary of the National Forest System, the winning designer of the first in a series of collectors' stamps featuring National Forest System wildlife & habitat will win \$25,000. A portion of the stamp sale proceeds will help preserve wildlife habitats, maintain recreation facilities, help in reforestation & other conservation activities. **Contact: Robert Hendricks (202) 447-2418.**

**SCHOOL BREAKFAST GRANTS** -- USDA has awarded \$5 million to school districts in 25 states to help start school breakfast programs. "These grants are part of a five-year program to provide start-up funds for new school breakfast programs through 1994," says **Betty Jo Nelsen**, administrator of USDA's Food & Nutrition Service. "They will contribute to better nutrition and stimulate the learning process for children at schools that begin breakfast programs." **Contact: Phil Shanholtzer (703) 756-3286.**

**MEDFLY FUNGI** -- The Medfly's worst enemy may be tucked away in a research lab in Ithaca, N.Y. That's where USDA Scientist **Stuart Krasnoff** has begun a methodical search through a collection of 3,000 fungal isolates from all over the world that are natural enemies of the Mediterranean fruit fly and its cousin, the Caribbean fruit fly. Krasnoff hopes to find fungi that produce compounds as effective as existing biological controls against fruit flies. **Contact: Sandy Miller Hays (301) 344-4089.**

**POOR BODY IMAGE** seems to be a major cause of depression & low self-esteem in both adults & youths, says Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service Nutritionist **Beth Reames**. Being thin & having a hard body are "in," Reames says, but the new federal Dietary Guidelines for Americans point out that neither overweight nor excessive thinness is desirable. Both excesses can lead to health problems. **Contact: Beth Reames (504) 388-4141.**

**USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON BIOTECH** -- USDA is looking for public comments on its proposed guidelines for research involving the planned introduction of genetically modified organisms into the environment. The guidelines are a major step forward for biotechnology research, says **Charles E. Hess**, assistant secretary of agriculture for science & education. The comment period closes April 2. Send comments to: **Daniel Jones** Office of Agricultural Biotechnology, Rm. 324-A, USDA, Washington, DC 20250-2200. Contact: **Marti Asner** (703) 235-4413.

**FARMSAFE 2000** -- A Surgeon General's conference on agricultural safety & health will be held in Des Moines, Iowa, April 30 through May 3. The purpose of the conference, organized by the national Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Centers for Disease Control, is to raise consciousness, build coalitions, disseminate information & encourage action to prevent injury & disease related to agriculture. Surgeon General **Antonia Coello Novello** will speak at the conference. Contact: **Melvin L. Myers** (404) 639-2376.

**COUNTRY RADIO BROADCASTERS** -- The 22nd annual Country Radio Seminar will be held March 6 - 9 at the Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tenn. Theme for the seminar is "On The Road Again" and will feature more than 40 hours of educational panels, workshops & keynote addresses on topics geared toward both the country radio & the country music/record industries. Contact: **Country Radio Broadcasters** (615) 327-4487.

**A WORD ON THE HERD** -- Certain livestock can be depreciated if it meets the requirements. Livestock acquired for work, breeding or dairy purposes that is not kept in an inventory account may be depreciated. However, livestock that farmers raise usually has no depreciable basis because the costs of raising the animals are deducted & not added to the basis. For details, see IRS Publication 225, **Farmer's Tax Guide**. Order by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676).

**NEW PHONE BOOK** -- Looking for someone at USDA? We've got just the ticket to help you. Hot off the presses -- "**USDA Telephone Directory 1990**." If you'd like a copy, call **Marci Hilt** (202) 447-6445. We'll send you one.

**CENSKY NAMED** -- Under Secretary of Agriculture **Richard T. Crowder** has appointed **Stephen L. Censky** as associate administrator of USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. Censky will assist in oversight & management of FAS programs. Prior to his new appointment, Censky served as special assistant to Crowder. Censky received his post-graduate diploma in agriculture from the University of Melbourne, Australia & his bachelor of science from South Dakota State University. Censky is a native of Jackson, Minn., where his parents own & operate a diversified crop & livestock farm. Contact: **Sally Klusaritz** (202) 447-3448.

**YEUTTER RESIGNS** -- Secretary of Agriculture **Clayton Yeutter** has officially submitted his resignation, effective March 1, so he can assume the chairmanship of the Republican National Committee. Contact: **Kelly Shipp** (202) 447-4623.



## FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

- AGRICULTURE USA #1757** -- USDA's budget request for fiscal year 1992 rests in the hands of Congress. On this edition of **Agriculture USA**, **Brenda Curtis** talks to USDA Budget Director **Stephen Dewhurst** about the budget package. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 minute documentary.)
- CONSUMER TIME #1238** -- USDA budget proposal for fiscal year 1992; food safety & food shopping; rice bran recipes; mid-life crisis; a groundhog day post mortem. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features.)
- AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1746** -- USDA News Highlights; USDA's proposed fiscal year 1992 budget; troubles for rural hospitals; cattle marketing rise; a unique sheep farm. (Weekly reel of news features.)
- NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1406** -- How much fish is enough; looking at cholesterol; flagging phony flavors; gold from goldenberries; developing domestic dill. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)
- UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE** -- Mon., Feb. 18, cattle on feed; Tues., Feb. 19, ag outlook, crop/weather update; Wed., Feb. 20, catfish production, ag chemical usage; Fri., Feb. 22, livestock/poultry update; Mon., Feb. 25, ag trade update, world livestock situation; Tues., Feb. 26, crop/weather update; Wed., Feb. 27, aquaculture outlook, world cocoa situation.

**DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.**  
Material changed at 5 p.m., EST, each working day.

FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE  
(Week of Feb. 7, 9 & 11)

- FEATURES --** Pat O'Leary reports on the farm costs & returns survey.
- ACTUALITIES --** U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills on GATT & the tri-lateral trade agreement of the U.S., Mexico & Canada; USDA Budget Director Stephen Dewhurst on the 1992 USDA budget proposal; USDA Chief Meteorologist Norton Strommen on national weather update & analysis of California drought situation; Norm Kallemeyn, USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service, on U.S. poultry exports to the USSR; USDA Economist Ron Gustafson on cattle inventories; & USDA Economist Steve MacDonald on U.S. import/export outlook.
- UPCOMING FEATURES --** Lynn Wyvill reports on farm safety for children; DeBoria Janifer reports on USDA's Women, Infants and Children -- WIC -- program.

Available on Satellite Westar IV, Transponder 12D (Channel 23), audio 6.2 or 6.8:

THURSDAY . . . . .7:30 - 7:45 p.m., EST  
SATURDAY . . . . .10 - 10:45 a.m., EST  
MONDAY . . . . .8 - 8:45 a.m., EST

## OFFMIKE

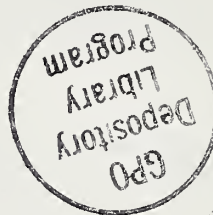
**WATER OFFICIALS...**in California have stopped state project flows to farmers in the San Joaquin Valley & will make recommendations to help citizens survive the drought, says Walt Shaw (KRAK, Sacramento). Walt is covering the story and says proposals being discussed include limiting use in each household, providing only enough water for survival -- not production -- of perennial crops & limiting other farms to groundwater, leaving thousands of acres fallow. In the 5th year of drought California has received only 28 percent of normal moisture. Trees are dying, which adds to the fire hazard.

**UNUSUALLY WARM...**temperatures in early February melted the snow, says Gary Wulf (KZEN, Central City, Neb.), creating ponding and runoff, but the ground remained frozen, which prevents any benefit to subsoil moisture. Gary says consolidation of Extension Service offices into "county groups" is benefitting producers by increasing the expertise offered by agents who specialize in a smaller number of commodities.

### ***Farm Broadcasters Letter***

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Radio-TV Division  
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Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

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**AG SHOW...**is being coordinated by Bill Walters (WCUB, Manitowoc, Wisc.). Planned for March 21 during Ag Week, 80 booths will have agri-business exhibits. Such new food items as lamb burgers, sheep (rather than "hot") dogs, flavored milk & cheese dessert, will also be available. A local producer plans to show a llama.

**THOUSANDS OF ACRES...**of vegetables were killed as the result of an unusual amount of rain in the Everglades, says Cindy Zimmerman (Florida Agrinet, Ocala). In her coverage, Cindy found standing water that caused a multi-million dollar loss of winter crops. Another major story is the recurrence of citrus canker. She says one grower burned 47,000 trees in an effort to eliminate the disease from a grove.

**CONGRATULATIONS...**to Jim Coyle (KRES, Moberly, Mo.) named Farm Broadcaster of the Year by the Missouri Corn Growers Association.

*Vic Powell*  
VIC POWELL

Chief, Radio & TV Division